AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method for producing a worn article, comprising the steps of:

successively placing portions of a web on a plurality of pads;

slacking off the web between the pads by shortening an interval between the pads;

placing an elastic member on the web placed on the pads so that the elastic member extends across a slack portion of the web, which is slacked off;

placing an absorbent body on a non-slack portion of the web on the pads, which is not slacked off;

removing a slack of the slack portion of the web by increasing the interval between the pads; and

placing a sheet of a predetermined length on the web, the slack of which is removed.

2. (Original) A method for producing a worn article by carrying a web in a predetermined flow direction while holding the web by a plurality of pads, comprising the steps of:

successively placing portions of the web on the pads being apart from one another in the flow direction, whereby the web is placed extending over the pads;

slacking off the web between the pads by shortening an interval between the pads, thus forming a slack portion in the web that is slacked off and forming a upstream non-slack portion upstream of the slack portion of the web in the flow direction and a downstream non-slack portion downstream of the slack portion of the web in the flow direction;

placing an elastic member between the upstream non-slack portion and the downstream non-slack portion so that the elastic member extends across the slack portion of the web;

placing an absorbent body on each of the non-slack portions;

removing a slack of the slack portion by increasing the interval between the

pads; and

placing a sheet of a predetermined length on the web, the slack of which is removed.

3. (Original) A method for producing a worn article, comprising the steps of:

dividing a web into a first web including a first side edge portion and a second web including a second side edge portion;

separating the first web and the second web from each other so as to increase a distance from the first side edge portion of the first web to the second side edge portion of the second web;

shifting a phase of the first web and that of the second web from each other;

successively placing portions of the first web and portions of the second web on a plurality of pads;

slacking off the first and second webs between the pads by shortening an interval between the pads;

placing an elastic member on each of the first and second webs placed on the pads so that the elastic member extends across a slack portion of the respective web, which is slacked off;

placing an absorbent body so that the absorbent body extends between non-slack portions of the first and second webs on the pads, which are not slacked off;

removing a slack of the slack portion of the first and second webs by increasing the interval between the pads; and

placing a sheet of a predetermined length on each of the first and second webs, the slack of which is removed.

4. (Original) A method for producing a worn article by carrying a web in a predetermined flow direction while holding the web by a plurality of pads, comprising the steps of:

dividing a web having a first side edge portion and a second side edge portion extending along the flow direction into a first web including the first side edge portion

and a second web including the second side edge portion;

separating the first web and the second web from each other so as to increase a distance from the first side edge portion of the first web to the second side edge portion of the second web;

shifting a phase of the first web in the flow direction and that of the second web from each other;

successively placing portions of the first web and portions of the second web on the pads being apart from one another in the flow direction, whereby each of the first and second webs is placed extending over the pads;

slacking off the first and second webs between the pads by shortening an interval between the pads, thus forming a slack portion in each of the first and second webs that is slacked off and forming a upstream non-slack portion upstream of the slack portion of each of the first web and the second web in the flow direction and a downstream non-slack portion downstream of the slack portion of each of the first web and the second web in the flow direction;

placing an elastic member between the upstream non-slack portion and the downstream non-slack portion of each of the first web and the second web so that the elastic member extends across the slack portion of each of the first web and the second web;

placing an absorbent body so that the absorbent body extends between the upstream non-slack portion of the first web and that of the second web;

placing another absorbent body so that the absorbent body extends between the downstream non-slack portion of the first web and that of the second web;

removing a slack of the slack portions of the first and second webs by increasing the interval between the pads; and

placing a sheet of a predetermined length on each of the first and second webs, the slack of which is removed.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a worn article according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein the elastic member is an elastic hotmelt.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a worn article according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, further comprising a step of making a leg hole in the web.

7. (New) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 2, wherein the elastic member is an elastic hotmelt.

8. (New) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 3, wherein the elastic member is an elastic hotmelt.

9. (New) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 4, wherein the elastic member is an elastic hotmelt.

10. (New) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 2, further comprising a step of making a leg hole in the web.

11. (New) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 3, further comprising a step of making a leg hole in the web.

12. (New) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 4, further comprising a step of making a leg hole in the web.

13. (New) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 5, further comprising a step of making a leg hole in the web.

14. (New) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 7, further comprising a step of making a leg hole in the web.

15. (New) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 8, further comprising a step of making a leg hole in the web.

16. (New) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 9, further comprising a step of making a leg hole in the web.